

which amendments they might be, indeed they are very controversial in nature and would require extended debate. That is not the way to complete action on this bill.

With that said, I am prepared to file cloture this evening on the bill. I do so continuing to hope we can consider relevant amendments to the bill while the motion ripens. If colleagues do have relevant class action amendments they want considered, I encourage them to come forward and discuss them with the managers and let us work out a process to dispose of them.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 430, S. 2062, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Orrin Hatch, Charles Grassley, Peter Fitzgerald, Craig Thomas, Mitch McConnell, Ted Stevens, Robert F. Bennett, Jim Talent, George Allen, Jon Kyl, Rick Santorum, Jeff Sessions, Pete Domenici, Susan Collins, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, this vote will occur on Friday unless it is vitiated by some other agreement, and we will remain in discussion and willing to vitiate it if agreement can be reached. We will be on the bill throughout tomorrow's session. Again, I hope we will be able to dispose of class action amendments during that period.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL RUSSELL WHITE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a few moments today to reflect on the life of LCpl Russell P. White. Russell epitomized the best of our country's brave men and women who are fighting to secure a new democracy in the Middle East. He exhib-

ited unwavering courage, dutiful service to his country, and above all else, honor. In the way he lived his life—and how we remember him—Russell reminds each of us how good we can be.

A resident of Dagsboro, Russell's passing has deeply affected the community. A graduate of Indian River High School, Russell was the son of Gregg and Tricia White. Friends, family, and school officials recalled Russell as a proud young man who made a sacrifice for their freedom, even if his death did not come during combat. As a senior at Indian River High School in rural Frankford, Russell spent his days in classrooms overlooking soybean fields, and his spare time at home hunting duck along tranquil Vines Creek. In his senior year, he tried out for and made the football team at Indian River. He became a starter and, at a mere 165 pounds, played nose guard, out hustling opposing lineman who weighed 50 to 100 pounds more than he did.

But Russell had a desire to be part of something bigger. He wanted to be among the troops sent to hunt Osama bin Laden in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan, so he joined the Marines early last year.

Russell had been stationed in Afghanistan for about a month prior to his death and was part of the mission to root out bin Laden and other members of al-Qaida. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, whose home base is at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Russell was remembered by his fellow marines as a young man who had a kind spirit and a zest for life with an outlook that sometimes got him into a little trouble, especially in the 13 grueling weeks of boot camp. When drill sergeants would bark orders, Russell would often crack a smile, unlike others who might shed tears in their bunks at night. "They couldn't crack him." Russell's father, Gregg, said. While Russell may have found some of his early training a little amusing, he was absolutely serious about his duties in Afghanistan.

Russell was a remarkable and well-respected young soldier. His friends and family remember him as an honorable man. He enjoyed playing football, hunting, skiing and being out on the water. He had hoped to return to Sussex County to help run his father's home-building business. Sadly, that dream will not be fulfilled.

I rise today to commemorate Russell, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family our support and our deepest sympathy on their tragic loss.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new cat-

egories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On October 14, 1995, a 9-year-old boy named Steven Wilson was found brutally raped, beaten, and drowned in a muddy ditch one mile from his house. Around the town, little Steven was known as a kid who liked to play with dolls. Other kids teased him and called him "fag." Nonetheless, Lamont Harden, a 15-year-old neighbor of Wilson, confessed to this horrific murder on the basis that he was trying to "humble the fag" that allegedly got into a scuffle with his brother.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

INTERIOR ALASKA WILDFIRES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, 10 years ago, on July 6, 1994, fourteen wildland firefighters lost their lives fighting the deadly South Canyon Fire near Glenwood Springs, CO. Nine of the 13 who perished were members of a single crew—a hotshot crew based in the small high desert town of Prineville in central Oregon. The "Prineville Nine," as they have come to be called, were all in their 20s.

The events of July 6, 1994 were as significant to the wildland fire community as the events of September 11, 2001 were to the New York City Fire Department, and the brave young men and women who perished in the South Canyon Fire were every bit as heroic as those who perished at the World Trade Center.

The anniversary of the South Canyon Fire brings home to all who live in the West how dearly we hold the brave young men and women, clad in their fire resistant yellow shirts, green pants and helmets, who fight the fires that sweep through our backyards.

On Monday, July 5, I had the privilege to visit a fire camp near Fairbanks, AK. The young men and women based at the camp were fighting the Boundary Fire, which is burning to the North of Fairbanks, under the experienced leadership of Steve Hart and his Type I Incident Management Team, drawn from the Rocky Mountain region of our Nation.

In the course of my visit, I had the opportunity to meet with each of the leaders on the Incident Command Team and received detailed briefings on how the fire was being managed.

One of those briefings was delivered by the Incident Safety Officer, who emphasized the acronym L-C-E-S, which stands for lookouts, communications, escape routes, and safety zones. Wildland firefighters are taught to keep safety in their forefront of their minds, constantly focusing on L-C-E-S.